

SIMPSON ELECTRIC COMPANY

MANUAL CF

ENG #45

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

**MODEL 228
CURRENT LEAKAGE TESTER**



WARNING

READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS MANUAL BEFORE USING THE INSTRUMENT.

Failure to understand and comply with the WARNINGS and operating instructions can result in serious or fatal injuries and/or property damage.

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WARRANTY

SIMPSON ELECTRIC COMPANY warrants each Instrument and other articles of equipment manufactured by it to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service, its obligation under this warranty being limited to making good at its factory any Instrument or other article of equipment which shall within one (1) year after delivery of such Instrument or other article of equipment to the original purchaser be returned intact to it, or to one of its authorized service stations, with transportation charges prepaid, and which its examination shall disclose to its satisfaction to have been thus defective; this warranty being expressly in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied and of all other obligations or liabilities on its part, and SIMPSON ELECTRIC COMPANY neither assumes nor authorizes any other persons to assume for it any other liability in connection with the sale of its products.

This warranty shall not apply to any Instrument or other article of equipment which shall have been repaired or altered outside the SIMPSON ELECTRIC COMPANY factory or authorized service stations, nor which has been subject to misuse, negligence or accident, incorrect wiring by others, or installation or use not in accord with instructions furnished by the manufacturer.

SAFETY SYMBOLS



This marking adjacent to another marking or a terminal or operating device indicates that the operator must refer to an explanation in the Operating Instructions to avoid damage to the equipment and/or to avoid personal injury.



The WARNING sign denotes a hazard. It calls attention to a procedure, practice or the like, which if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in personal injury.



The CAUTION sign denotes a hazard. It calls attention to a procedure, practice or the like, which if not correctly adhered to could result in damage to or destruction of part or all of the Instrument.



High Voltage Terminal: Use extreme care when making high voltage measurements; do not touch terminals or probe ends.



Limit voltage, with respect to earth ground, to 600VDC/VAC maximum.



A terminal connected to earth ground.

WARNING

This Instrument is designed to prevent accidental shock to the operator when properly used. However, no engineering design can render safe an instrument which is used carelessly. Therefore, this manual must be read carefully and completely before making any measurements. Failure to follow directions can result in serious or fatal accident.

SHOCK HAZARD: As defined in IEC-1010-2, *Safety Requirements for Electrical & Electronic Measurement, Control and Laboratory Use*, a shock hazard shall be considered to exist at any part involving a potential in excess of 30 volts RMS (sine wave) or 42.4 volts DC or peak and where a leakage current from that part to ground exceeds 0.5 MIU (Measurement Indication Units) when measured with an appropriate measuring instrument defined in Section 6.3.1.2 annex A of IEC-1010-1.

NOTE: UL-1244 calls for the same voltage and measurement limits as IEC-1010-1:1990 but UL-1244 specifies a slightly different test network. Simpson Electric manufactures test equipment to measure shock hazard as set forth by both specifications. The Simpson Model 228 uses the networks specified by IEC-1010-1 and is suitable for measuring shock hazard as defined in that document. The Simpson 229-2 uses the measurement networks specified in UL-1244 and is suitable for measuring shock hazard as defined in that document.

Instruments such as the Model 228 are intended for use in relatively low power 120/240 VAC or dry battery operated circuits. Never use this Instrument for measurements in high-energy or high-power circuitry such as power substations, distribution centers, RF induction heaters, broadcast transmitters and X-ray equipment. The **Safety Precautions** in this manual alert you to such hazards and the protective measures necessary to avoid injury or equipment damage. The dangers in high power circuits are serious. **Please observe all safety precautions!**

WARRANTY

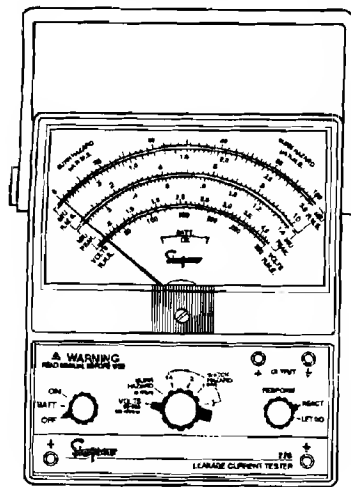
Warranty information is printed at the beginning of this manual. Read it carefully prior to requesting warranty repairs. For assistance, contact your nearest Simpson Authorized Service Center or Simpson Customer Service Department.

If it is necessary to contact the factory directly:

- Include the Instrument model number and date of purchase.

Service data or shipping instructions will be mailed promptly. There is a charge for service data. If an estimate of charges for non-warranty service is required, a maximum charge estimate will be quoted. This charge will not be exceeded without prior approval.

MODEL 228 CURRENT LEAKAGE TESTER



INTRODUCTION

The **Simpson Model 228** is a special purpose AC/DC milliammeter that measures potentially hazardous leakage current on electrical and electronic equipment. This Instrument meets the guidelines published in IEC 990, "Methods of Measurement of Touch Current and Protective Conductor Current." Most standards agencies in the United States — including ANSI, ISA and UL are in the process of implementing the networks from IEC 990 into their specifications.

Note: For specification information contact:

ANSI at 212/642-4900 or
UL in Northbrook, IL at 847/272-8800.

The Model 228 is intended and designed to test equipment operating at 120-220 volts AC or DC power line circuits only. Instrument features include:

- Separate leakage current networks for measuring the following electrical shock response levels:
 - Perception/reaction (shock hazard)
 - Let-go (shock hazard)
 - Burn hazard
- 0-300 volt scale for measuring open circuit voltage between accessible parts and ground.
- An RMS reading meter with scales for reading shock hazard up to 10 Measurement Indication Units (MIU), burn hazard up to 100 mA and peak indicating RMS shock hazard. Refer to **Measurement Procedures** for more information on these scales
- Output connections for an external peak reading Instrument (required for measuring peak readings on non-sinusoidal waveforms).
- Convenient battery test function.

WARNING

The 228 is a battery operated Instrument. In some applications, the lead attached to the "Ground" input may not be attached to earth ground. As a result, the output jacks may be "floating." To prevent a potential shock hazard, do not connect any connectors or equipment with accessible conductive surfaces.

What Is Leakage Current?

"Leakage Current" is a generic term which is applied to many forms of unwanted currents. "Leakage Current" (or more accurately, "Touch Current") as it relates to electrical shock hazards is the current that flows to ground through the human body due to inadequate insulation or improper grounding between internal supplies and accessible conductive parts.

In properly designed and installed equipment, leakage current can usually be ignored because it has been limited to safe levels. Excessive leakage current can appear in equipment as a result of:

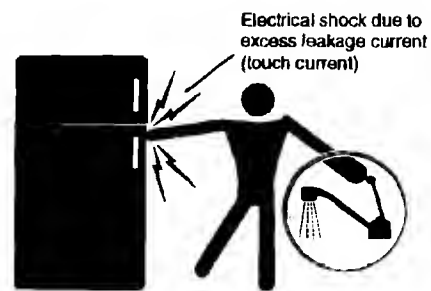
- A defective component
- Poor equipment design or installation
- A build up of foreign matter which reduces the insulation effectiveness
- Old or deteriorated insulation which no longer works

The presence of leakage current on any accessible conductive part poses a potential shock hazard to anyone touching that part. Severe electrical shocks from leakage current can cause burns, serious injury or in some cases, death. Even when leakage currents are not high enough to directly injure a person, the current may be high enough to cause a violent muscle contraction which may result in an "accident." This accident may include injury.

Leakage current measurement is an effective way to ensure the safety of electrical equipment — for not only the user but anyone who comes in contact with the equipment. Leakage current measurements should be performed whenever new equipment is installed or when equipment is repaired.

Human Response to Electrical Shock

The human body's reaction to electrical shock depends upon the magnitude of the current involved and many other variables, including sex, weight, age and point of contact. Reaction to a shock can range from a harmless tingling sensation, to a more serious response, like violent muscle contractions, massive tissue burns or death due to heart failure.



A typical example of the effects of leakage current.

Although most electrical or electronic equipment may be energized by 60Hz (50Hz) power circuits, some have solid state control circuits or power conversion circuits which generate higher frequency currents. This high-frequency current may be a significant part of the total leakage current. The human body becomes less sensitive to leakage current as the frequency is increased. The 228 takes the frequency of the leakage current into account when making measurements and displays a reading that correctly reflects the potential hazard from the leakage current. Because of this frequency correction, leakage currents are measured in Measurement Indications Units or MIU.

The IEC and other safety agencies have defined four (two are combined below) levels of human body response to electrical shock:

- Perception/Reaction (tingling sensation and involuntary muscle contraction)
- Let-go (the loss of the ability to control muscles and release)
- Electric burn

The 228 includes a separate measurement "network" for each of these response levels.

Note: These response networks are for non-medical applications and do not include patient contact cases. This Instrument is not intended for use in medical applications.

Shock Hazard

The level at which leakage current will cause a shock varies greatly between people. As a result the IEC, UL and other safety agencies have attempted to set limits where most people will not feel a shock or will not react to any leakage current present. The most commonly used leakage current limit is .5 MIU RMS (.7 MIU peak) using the reaction response network. This level is safe for most conditions and for most people, but there are cases where .5 MIU may pose a hazard. In those cases tighter limits are required. The safety agencies also acknowledge that some conditions exist where higher currents can be permitted without an increased risk of injury.

When making routine leakage current measurements as part of equipment maintenance, refer to the equipment manufacturer for the acceptable leakage current level. When using the 228 for safety testing of new designs, check with the appropriate safety agency for the correct leakage current limits.

Burn Hazard

As previously mentioned, another potential leakage current hazard is electrical burn. Electrical burns can occur at current frequencies as low as 30KHz or lower. The potential of electrical burn is constant regardless of frequency and is measured in mA RMS. A limit of 70 mA is almost universally accepted as being a safe limit for preventing leakage current related electrical burns.

Inspection of Instrument

Immediately upon receipt, inspect the instrument for damage. Verify your instrument includes all of its components and accessories. If you find the unit is damaged, notify the carrier and supplier immediately **Do not use a damaged instrument.**

Components and Accessories

- Operator's Manual
- Test Lead Set: Red and black insulated test probe set. Simpson Part Number 00125.
- Two (2) 9-volt, NEDA type 1604A alkaline batteries.

SPECIFICATIONS

Current Leakage Measurement Specifications

Specification	Response Level		
	Reaction	Let-Go	Burn Hazard
Equivalent Measuring System Load	1M Ω , 10 pF	1M Ω , 62 pF	1M Ω , 1 pF
Ranges	.3, 1, 3, 10 MIU		0-100 mA RMS
Meter Accuracy	$\pm 2\%$ FS @ 60 Hz		
Meter Measurement Method	True RMS		
Meter Frequency Response*			
DC to 1 Hz	Pointer tracks within 5% of peak		
20 Hz to 200 KHz	$\pm 2\%$ FS		
200 KHz to 1 Mhz	$\pm 2\%$ FS	$\pm 2\%$ FS	$\pm 5\%$ FS
Output Accuracy	$\pm 2\%$ of Reading @ 60 Hz		
Output Frequency Response*			
DC to 50 Hz	$\pm 2\%$ of Reading		
50 Hz to 200 KHz	$\pm 2\%$ of Reading	$\pm 2\%$ /-3% of Reading	$\pm 2\%$ of Reading
200 KHz to 1 KHz	$\pm 5\%$ of Reading		

*Relative to ANSI C101-1992 or IL-1459 2nd edition

Output Sensitivity:

Full scale meter deflection equals 1 volt RMS (measured with a 1M Ω , 12 pF load)

Voltmeter Range: 0-300 volts

Voltmeter Accuracy:

DC to 1 Hz: Pointer tracks within 5% of peak

20 Hz to 1 KHz: 3% FS @ 60 Hz

Voltmeter Frequency Response: DC to 1 KHz

Power Source Requirements:

Two (2) 9 volt, NEDA type 1604A alkaline batteries

Note: Alkaline batteries have a VDC continuous use rated life of 400 hours or longer.

Temperature Range:

Operating: 0° to 40°C

Storage: -10° to 55°C

Humidity Range:

Operating: 70% RH, non-condensing

Dimensions: 7" x 5¼" x 3-1/8" (18 cm x 13.6 cm x 8.2 cm)

Weight: 2½ lbs. (1,134 g)

Low-Battery indication: Instrument provides a battery test selection on power switch and corresponding scale on meter dial.

CONTROLS AND FUNCTIONS

- **Power Control Switch**
Turns the Instrument ON and OFF. Select the BATT setting prior to each use to determine battery condition. A weak battery may cause inaccurate readings.
- **Function Select Switch**
Selects one of three operating modes: VOLTS, BURN HAZARD and SHOCK HAZARD.
- **Response Network Select Switch**
Selects one of two shock hazard response networks: REACT and LET GO. This switch is used in conjunction with the SHOCK HAZARD setting on the Function Select Switch.
- **Meter Dial**
Displays Instrument measurements. The meter dial has four measurement scales and a battery test scale.
- **Burn Hazard Scale (measured in mA RMS)**
Use when you select the BURN HAZARD function to read potential burn hazard leakage current.
- **Shock Hazard Scales (measured in MIU RMS and MIU Peak)**
Use when you select the SHOCK HAZARD function to measure shock hazard leakage current. The MIU Peak scale reads 1.4 times the RMS value and assumes a sinusoidal waveform.

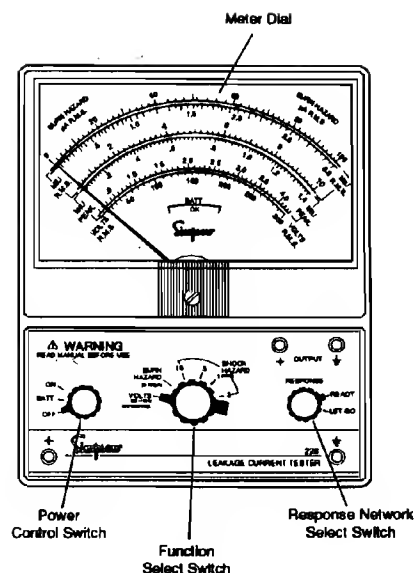
Important: Read the MIU Peak scale only if the equipment specification calls for a peak reading and when you are certain that the leakage current is sinusoidal. See **Appendix A** for more information on RMS and Peak measurement limits.

- **Volts Scale (0-300 volts)**
Use when you select the VOLTS function.
- **Battery Scale**
Indicates the condition of the batteries when you select the BATT function.

INTERPRETING THE METER DIAL SCALES

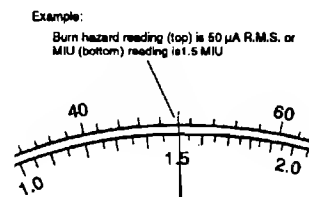
It's very important to use the correct multiplier when reading Instrument measurements. Refer to the following table for more information.

Range Selected	Scale	Range Multiplier
BATT	BATTERY OK	None
VOLTS	0 - 300 V	1
BURN HAZARD	0 - 100 mA RMS	1
10 MIU	0 - 1 MIU RMS	10
	0 - 1.4 MIU Peak	10
3 MIU	0 - 3 MIU RMS	1
	0 - 4.2 MIU Peak	1
1 MIU	0 - 1 MIU RMS	1
	0 - 1.4 MIU Peak	1
.3 MIU	0 - 3 MIU RMS	0.1
	0 - 4.2 MIU Peak	0.1



READING THE METER DIAL SCALES

The analog meter scales require interpolation to obtain readings that fall in between the major scale markings. See illustration below for examples.



- **Mechanical Zero Adjustment Screw**
Adjusts the meter pointer to zero when the Instrument is turned OFF.
- **"+" and "↓" Input Jacks**
Connect the red (positive) test lead to the "+" jack and the black (ground) test lead to the "↓" jack.
- **"+" and "↓" Output Jacks**
Connect the positive and ground leads from a peak reading device to these jacks. The Instrument output produces a scaled and buffered output voltage which matches the waveform of the leakage current. At full scale meter deflection, the output produces 1 volt RMS.



The output jack ground is tied to input jack ground. To avoid a "ground loop" condition which can cause false readings or Instrument damage, do not tie the Instrument's output ground jack to another ground.

- **Battery Compartment**
Houses the two (2) 9 volt NEDA type 1604A alkaline batteries and input protection fuse. These are the only user serviceable parts in the Instrument.

WARNING

Prior to opening the Instrument battery compartment, disconnect all test leads and turn the power switch OFF.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

WARNING

This Instrument is designed to ensure operator safety. However, the Instrument is capable of measuring current and voltage levels which can be fatal. To guarantee safe operation, please observe all warnings and cautions contained in this manual and in the technical manuals of the equipment under test.

Do not use this Instrument unless you are qualified to recognize shock hazards and trained in the safety precautions required to avoid injury. Familiarize yourself with the **Definition of Shock Hazard** section located in the front of this manual.

- Do not work alone when making measurements where a shock hazard may exist. Make certain that someone capable of rendering aid is nearby and watchful.
- Turn power OFF to the equipment under test. Discharge any capacitors in the circuit before connecting or disconnecting the Instrument.
- Be aware that voltages can appear unexpectedly in defective equipment. For example, an open bleeder resistor can allow a capacitor to retain a dangerous charge.
- Locate all voltage sources and accessibility paths prior to making any connections or measurements.
- Prior to using the Instrument, inspect the test leads and connectors for damage. Do not use, or permit the use of, damaged equipment.
- Make sure your hands and shoes, as well as the floor and workbench, are dry. Avoid making measurements under damp and humid conditions.
- Never touch the test leads, circuit or Instrument while power is applied to the circuit you are measuring.
- Do not use test leads which differ from those originally furnished with the Instrument.

MEASUREMENT PROCEDURES

General

Measurement of current leakage involves a series of procedures:

1. Preparation
2. Voltage Measurement
3. Burn Hazard Network Measurement
4. Shock Hazard Network Measurement
5. Polarity Reversal Measurements

PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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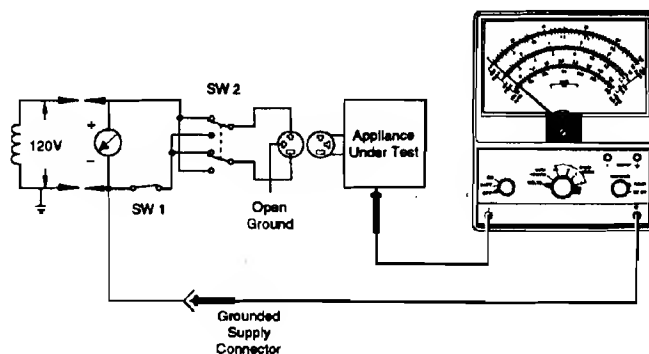
For a typical single unit test, all of these procedures are performed in sequence and the instructions that follow cover the complete series. However, for testing of a group of products or for special purpose applications, qualified users might only need to use a selected part of the full procedure.

WARNING

Do not touch the equipment under test with power applied until you have verified that voltage and current leakage measurements are within accepted limits.

Note: The following procedures, based on set-up and test procedures from ANSI C101.1, are written for equipment operating on 120V 60 Hz mains. Refer to the applicable standards document (or to the equipment manufacturer) for correct main connection, detailed test procedures and leakage current limits.

The diagram below shows a typical test setup. All items other than the 228 and its' accessories must be provided by the user.



PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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Preparation

1. Turn OFF power to equipment under test.
2. If the meter pointer does not align with zero when Instrument power is OFF, rotate the mechanical zero adjustment screw as necessary.
3. Connect the Instrument and equipment under test. The diagram on above shows a typical test setup. Do not apply power.
4. Verify proper line voltage is available for the equipment under test.
5. Turn the Instrument **Power Switch** to BATT. If pointer indicates satisfactory battery condition, proceed with testing. If not, turn Instrument **Power Switch** to OFF and replace the batteries before proceeding.

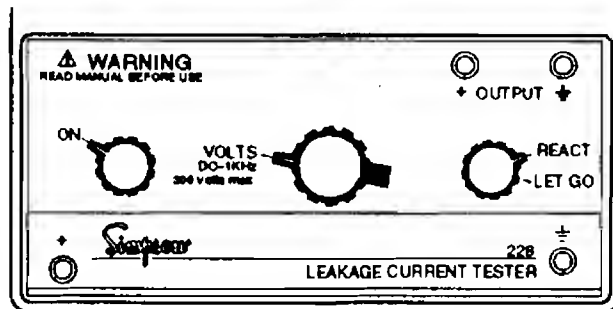
PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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Voltage Measurement

1. Turn the Instrument **Power Switch** to ON.
2. Turn the **Response Network Select Switch** to REACT.

Note: Depending on current measured, some standards may require you to check the LET GO level of response. In these cases, turn the **Response Network Select Switch** to LET GO rather than REACT.

3. Connect Instrument **Test Leads** to the input jacks — red lead to "+" and black lead to "I".
4. Turn **Function Select** switch to VOLTS.
5. Connect Instrument **Ground Test Lead** to known good ground (such as a water pipe or power line ground).
6. With SW1 open, turn ON equipment under test.
7. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces to determine if excessive voltage is present. Read the 0-300 volts (bottom) scale.
 - If the voltage measurements appear normal, proceed to **Burn Hazard** test which follows.



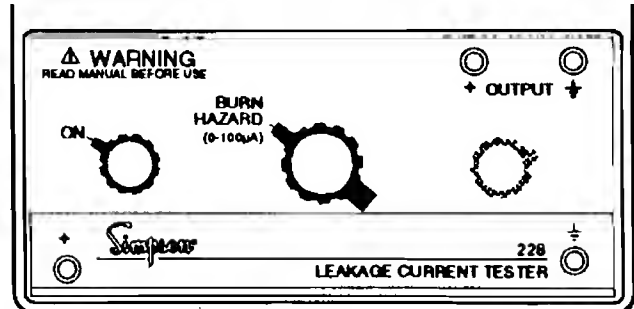
- If measured voltage is above expected value, check equipment for short circuits and make any necessary repairs before continuing. Abnormally high voltages that persist without corresponding short circuits indicate current leakage.

PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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Burn Hazard Measurement

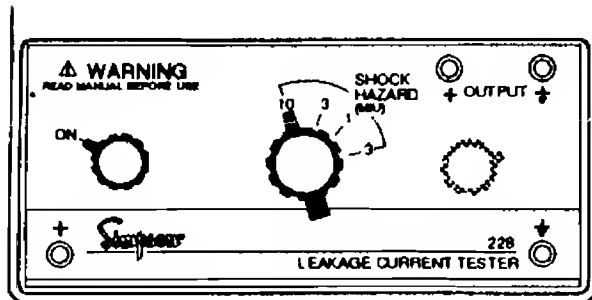
1. Turn **Function Select** switch to BURN HAZARD.
2. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces and check for excessive current leakage. Read the 0-100mA RMS scale.

Note: Most safety specifications set a limit of 70mA for this measurement. Refer to the appropriate specification (or equipment manufacturer) for the correct limit. Proceed only when burn hazard measurements are within acceptable limits.



PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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Shock Hazard Measurement



1. Turn **Function Select Switch** to 10MIU SHOCK HAZARD.
2. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces and check for excessive current leakage. Read the 0-10 MIU scale.

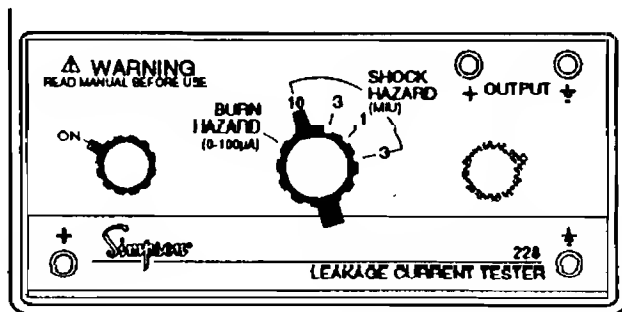
If measured current is less than 1/3 of full scale, increase meter sensitivity by turning the **Function Select** switch clockwise until pointer is in upper 2/3 of the dial.

Note: ANSI C101.1 limits current leakage to .5 MIU RMS for most appliances, but exceptions are allowed for unique situations. Refer to the equipment manufacturer or applicable safety standard for more details. Proceed only when shock hazard measurements are within acceptable limits.

PREPARATION	VOLTAGE	BURN HAZARD	SHOCK HAZARD	POLARITY REVERSAL
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Polarity Reversal

1. Use SW2 (page 6) switch to reverse the hot and neutral. Do not close SW1 to activate the unit under test. Repeat **Voltage**, **Burn Hazard**, and **Shock Hazard** tests. After completing tests, return SW2 to original position.
2. Close SW1 and turn equipment on.
3. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces to determine if excessive voltage is present. Read the 0-300 volts (bottom) scale.
 - If the voltage measurements appear normal, proceed to step 4.
 - If measured voltage is above expected value, check equipment for short circuits and make any



necessary repairs before continuing. Abnormally high voltages that persist without corresponding short circuits indicate current leakage.

4. Turn **Function Select** switch to BURN HAZARD.
5. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces and check for excessive current leakage. Read the 0-100mA RMS scale.

Note: Most safety specifications set a limit of 70mA for this measurement. Refer to the appropriate specification (or equipment manufacturer) for the correct limit. Proceed only when burn hazard measurements are within acceptable limits.

6. Turn **Function Select Switch** to 10 MIU SHOCK HAZARD.
7. Use **Positive Test Lead** to probe all accessible conductive surfaces and check for excessive current leakage. Read the 0-10 MIU scale.

If measured current is less than 1/3 of full scale, increase meter sensitivity by turning the **Function Select** switch clockwise until pointer is in upper 2/3 of the dial.

Note: ANSI C101.1 limits current leakage to 0.5 MIU RMS for most appliances, but exceptions are allowed for unique situations. Refer to the equipment manufacturer for applicable safety standard for more details.

8. Repeat steps 3-7 for both positions of SW2 within 5 seconds of closing SW1. If the equipment has multiple separate conductive surfaces, repeat steps 3-8 as quickly as possible for each surface.
9. Continue monitoring leakage current (using the procedure outlined in steps 3-8 above) while equipment operates normally and warms up.
10. Open SW1 and monitor leakage current (using the procedure outlined in steps 3-8 above) until equipment cools or until leakage current stabilizes.

Note: If at any time during the test, the equipment under test exceeds the limits specified by the appropriate safety standard (or by the manufacturer), replace the equipment or remove it from service until the necessary repairs are complete.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

WARNING

Your instrument was designed and constructed using high-quality components. Providing reasonable care and routine maintenance will ensure a long service life of trouble-free operation.

Service

The Model 228 Current Leakage Tester contains no operator-serviceable parts, except the batteries and fuse. Refer all service requests to an authorized service dealer or to the factory.

Battery Replacement

To install 9 volt NEDA type 1604A alkaline batteries:

1. Turn OFF the Instrument and disconnect the Instrument test leads before you open the battery compartment.
2. Place the Instrument face-down on a soft, padded surface.
3. Using a flat-blade screwdriver, loosen two large captive screws holding the battery compartment cover.
4. Replace both batteries.

CAUTION

Whenever the Battery Check indicates low battery power, always replace both batteries.

5. Replace battery compartment cover.

Fuse Replacement

To replace a blown fuse:

1. Turn OFF the Instrument and disconnect the Instrument test leads before you open the battery compartment.
2. Place the Instrument face-down on a soft, padded surface.
3. Using a flat-blade screwdriver, loosen the two large captive screws holding the battery compartment cover.
4. Carefully remove the blown fuse and replace with fresh fuse.



Use a fuse of specified size and rating

- Size: 1/4" x 1-1/4"
- Rating: 0.1A, 250V
- Fuse is Littelfuse model 312.1 or equivalent and is available through electric supply sources.

5. Replace the battery compartment cover.

CARE OF INSTRUMENT



Do not attempt to clean this Instrument with the test leads connected to a power source or when it is connected to the AC power line.

- Immediately clean spilled materials from the Instrument and wipe dry. If necessary, moisten a cloth with soap and water to clean plastic surfaces.
- Whenever possible, avoid exposure of Instrument to temperature and humidity extremes, vibration, mechanical shock, dust, corrosive fumes, or strong electrical or electromagnetic interferences.
- Verify Instrument calibration by performing operational checks using known value sources. For information on Instrument calibration, call Simpson Customer Service.
- It is recommended that the Instrument be returned annually to the factory for factory inspection and calibration. Call Simpson Customer Service for instructions.
- When not in use, store Instrument in a location free from temperature extremes, dust and corrosive fumes, mechanical vibration and shock.

Appendix A

RMS vs Peak

Throughout this manual there have been frequent notices about using the meter to measure sinusoidal currents only. These warnings are necessary because of the nature of leakage current and its effect on the body.

Almost all studies investigating electrical shock hazard have shown that the severity of an electric shock is more closely related to peak current than the average value or RMS value. As a result, the authors of IEC 990 decided that a peak reading Instrument was the best Instrument for measuring shock hazard. Measuring peak current can be a difficult task in a noisy environment or when the unit under test is producing high frequency signals. The ANSI C101.1 committee felt that this difficulty was a significant problem and specified an RMS reading Instrument for measuring leakage current.

The Model 228 attempts to resolve the differences in specifications by providing a direct reading RMS meter and by providing a buffered output for measuring peak current. The Instrument provides a peak reading scale on the dial as a convenience for users who have verified that a sinusoidal current is present.

The output on the Model 228 provides the user with the ability to measure the waveform that comes out of the measurement network.

When measuring non-sinusoidal currents, the user must take precautions to insure that the peak levels of current do not overload the internal amplifiers in the meter. The simplest method of doing this is to connect a peak reading Instrument to the Model 228 output. After identifying the range that seems to be appropriate, select the next higher range and compare the reading. If the readings match (after adjusting for attenuator scale factor), then the amplifiers are not in overload and the more sensitive range may be used. If the readings do not match, the Model 228 is overloaded and a higher range must be used.

When high crest factors are present, the difference between the RMS and the peak readings may be substantial. In those cases, it may be advisable to base safety on the peak reading even though ANSI C101.1 calls for RMS.

When using the Model 228, it is important to use the correct measurement limits. Contact the appropriate safety agency or the equipment manufacturer to determine whether RMS or peak measurements are required.